

# Script tampering and Mistransliteration in Greek NT

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Script tampering and Mistransliteration was quite common in Greek NT.

For Example, a later (minuscule aera) scribe complains about a change of the text of Heb 1:3 in Greek NT Manuscript Codex Vaticanus.

In Greek NT manuscript Codex Vaticanus (On page 1512, next to Hebrews 1:3), The footnote ("sidenote" rather) reads: αμαθεστατε και κακε, αφες τον παλαιον, μη μεταποιει. <sup>[1]</sup>.

Translation - "Fool and knave, can't you leave the old reading alone and not alter it!" <sup>[2]</sup>.

While translating from Original Aramaic NT into Greek NT, Greek NT replaced Arameans with Greeks which can be read here <sup>[3]</sup>. This script tampering in Greek NT completely contradicted with what Josephus wrote in Antiquities XX, XI <sup>[3]</sup>.

But there were several other tamperings and also mistransliterations. Many of them are listed in the below categories.

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## Script Tamperings in Greek NT

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**1)** John 7:53-8:11 (the woman caught in Adultery) is not in Aramaic Peshitta <sup>[4]</sup>.

John 7:53-8:11 is not found in many early Greek NT manuscripts - p66,p75,κ, B, L, N, T, W, X, Δ, Θ, Ψ, 33, 157, 565, 892, 1241, fam. 1424. <sup>[5]</sup>. The earliest Greek mss. known to contain the passage is codex Bezae (D), of the fifth, or sixth century, and is joined by several Old Latin manuscripts <sup>[5]</sup>.

John 7:53-8:11 (the woman caught in adultery) says this in John 8:3-5 (NIV)- **"The teachers of the law and the Pharisees** brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, **"Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women.** Now what do you say?"

This is actually a total contradiction to what Jesus Christ said in John 7 (previous chapter) and New Testament. Jesus Christ points out how none of the people keeps the law of Moses in John 7:19.

John 7:19 (NIV) - "**Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law.** Why are you trying to kill me?"

Jesus Christ also points out how the people of Israel didn't believe in Moses.

John 5:46-47 (NIV) - "If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?"

Jesus Christ severely criticized the Pharisees and the scribes for obeying Traditions of the Elders which nullified the word of God <sup>[6]</sup>. On the top of this, Jesus Christ calls his generation "Wicked/Sinful and **adulterous** generation" <sup>[7]</sup>.

**2)** In Matthew 10:8, "raise the dead" is not in Peshitta <sup>[8]</sup> while it is found in Greek NT manuscripts and Greek NT translations.

Matthew 10:8 (NIV)- "Heal the sick, **raise the dead**, cleanse those who have leprosy,[a] drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give."

**3)** In Matthew 27:9, the name of the prophet is not mentioned in Peshitta.

Matthew 27:9-10 (Aramaic NT) - "Then the thing was fulfilled which was spoken **by the prophet**, who said, I took the thirty [pieces] of silver, the price of the precious one, which agreed upon from [those] sons of Israel. And I gave them for the field of the potter, as the LORD commanded me."<sup>[9]</sup>

But in Greek NT, the name of prophet is mentioned as **Jeremiah**. Here is an example from Greek NT manuscript "Codex Sinaiticus."

Matthew 27:9-10(HT Anderson translation of Codex Sinaiticus) - Then was fulfilled that which was spoken through **Jeremiah the prophet**, saying: And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him who had a price set upon him, on whom they of the sons of Israel set a price, and gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me,<sup>[10]</sup>

But there is a big problem with Greek NT. The prophecy is actually by Zechariah the prophet.

Zechariah 11:13 (KJV): "And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD."

Zechariah 11:13 (NIV): "And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"-the handsome price at which they priced me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD to the potter."

Since Aramaic Peshitta does not name the prophet, it does not share this contradiction with the Greek texts.

**4)** Luke 22:17-18 is not in Aramaic Peshitta [\[11\]](#).

But it is in Greek NT manuscripts and Greek NT Translations.

Luke 22:17-18 (NIV) - "After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

**5)** Acts 15:34 - "But it pleased Silas to remain there" is not in Aramaic Peshitta [\[12\]](#).

Acts 15:34 (of NIV which is a Greek translation) provides this information - Some manuscripts include here But Silas decided to remain there [\[13\]](#).

Many other differences between Aramaic Peshitta and Greek NT can be seen in Aramaic NT Primacist William Norton's book "A Translation, in English Daily Used, of the Peshito-Syriac Text, and of the Received Greek Text, of Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, and 1 John: With An Introduction On the Peshito-Syriac Text, and the Received Greek Text of 1881" (1889), Page lxx-lxxi which is available here [\[14\]](#).

With Book of Revelation, There are some tamperings found in Greek NT Revelation. Here are some examples. Below information are from this source [\[15\]](#).

**1)** Revelation 9:11

Revelation 9:11 (NIV - translation of Greek) - "They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name **in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer).**"

But instead of "in Hebrew is Abaddon", Aramaic Revelation (in Crawford Codex) has "whose name in Awraith is Awadu". Instead of "in Greek is Apollyon", Aramaic Revelation has "in Aramait, his name is Shara (also written as Shareh)."

Both Awadu and Shara are Aramaic words. Awadu (also written as Avadu) in Judean Aramaic is the command-"Work" and Shara (also written as Shareh) has several possibilities, mostly likely being, "Be Strong" or "Be faithful."

The word "Awraith" can mean Aramaic or Hebrew.

In first century, the spoken language of Hebrews was Aramaic. When they say Hebrew (or Awraith) in New Testament, they are referring to certain Aramaic words commonly used by Hebrews (in Judea, Idumea, Egypt) and the word "Aramait" refers to certain Aramaic words commonly used by Hebrews and Arameans in Northern regions (Galilee, Lebanon, Syria, etc).

Aramaic was the spoken language of Hebrews until Hebrew was revived by False Simon Bar Kokhba during Bar Kokhba revolt (132-135 AD).

Revelation 9:11 mentioning "in Greek is Apollyon" also contradicts with what Josephus wrote in his Antiquities XX XI <sup>[15]</sup> while Aramaic NT of Revelation supports the testimony of Josephus.

**2)** With Revelation 16:16, there is a contradiction between Greek NT and Greek NT translations.

Revelation 16:16 (NIV) - "Then they gathered the kings together to the place that **in Hebrew is called Armageddon.**"

Revelation 16:16 (World English Bible) - "He gathered them together into the place which is called **in Hebrew, Megiddo.**"

But in Aramaic Revelation (Revelation 16:16) of Crawford Codex, it says "in Awraith, Magdo." <sup>[16]</sup> Magdo is mentioned in Matthew 15:39 of Aramaic Peshitta while it is called Dalmanutha in Mark 8:1 <sup>[17]</sup>.

## Mistransliteration in Greek NT manuscripts

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Several Aramaic words are mistransliterated in Greek NT manuscripts.

**1)** Aramaic word in John 19:17 of Aramaic Peshitta is **Gagultha** <sup>[18]</sup>. But Greek NT manuscripts mistransliterated Gagultha as Golgotha <sup>[19]</sup>.

Aramaic Peshitta points out that Gagultha (commonly used by Hebrews in Judea and in Idumea) is called Qarqaptha by Hebrews and Arameans in Galilee and Northern regions like Lebanon, Syria, etc. <sup>[18]</sup>

This can be found in English as well. Here is an example. The word "Tapioca" in England is commonly called "Yuca" (or sometimes as "Cassava") in America.

**2)** Aramaic word in John 19:13 is **Gpiptha** <sup>[18]</sup>. But Greek NT mistransliterated Gpiptha as Gabbatha <sup>[19]</sup>.

Aramaic Peshitta points out that Gpiptha (commonly used by Hebrews in Judea and in Idumea) is called Rtsiptha by Hebrews and Arameans in Galilee and Northern regions like Lebanon, Syria, etc. <sup>[18]</sup>

**3)** Aramaic word in John 5:2 is "**Beth Khisda**" <sup>[19]</sup>. "Beth Khisda" is mistransliterated as "Bethesda" in John 5:2 of Greek NT <sup>[10]</sup>.

**4)** Aramaic word for Field of Blood in Acts 1:19 is "**Khqel Dama**" (also written as Haqal Dama) <sup>[20]</sup>.

Aramaic word "Khqel Dama" is transliterated as "Akel Dama" in Greek NT <sup>[10]</sup>.

**5)** Aramaic word in John 20:16 is **Rabbuli** <sup>[21]</sup>.

Both Rabbuli and Malpana are Aramaic words used in Judea and in Idumea for teacher while Galilee, and regions like Lebanon, Syria, etc commonly used Malpana for teacher <sup>[21]</sup>.

But Greek NT mistransliterated Rabbuli as Rabbouni <sup>[10]</sup>. This mistransliteration may have happened possibly due to the similarity between Lamed ("L") and Nun ("N") in Estrangela script <sup>[22]</sup>. Other possibilities can be read here <sup>[23]</sup>.

Mistransliteration of Aramaic words in Greek can also be seen in Josephus' Judean wars which can be read here <sup>[24]</sup>.

## Other Information

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Aramaic Peshitta solves the mistranslations found in Greek NT. All of the information about this can be found in the below links.

1) New Testament written in Aramaic - <sup>[25]</sup>

2) Romans 5:7-8 mistranslation in Greek ("Rarely Would One Die for The Righteous?") - <sup>[26]</sup>

3) Was New Testament really written in Greek? - <sup>[27]</sup>

## References

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1. ↑ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Codex\\_Vaticanus\\_B,\\_2Thess.\\_3,11-18,\\_Hebr.\\_1,1-2,2.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Codex_Vaticanus_B,_2Thess._3,11-18,_Hebr._1,1-2,2.jpg)
2. ↑ <http://www.user.uni-bremen.de/~wie/Vaticanus/note1512.html>
3. ↑ <sup>3.0 3.1</sup> [http://en.metapedia.org/wiki/New\\_Testament](http://en.metapedia.org/wiki/New_Testament)
4. ↑ <http://www.peshitta.org/pdf/Yukhnch7.pdf> & <http://www.peshitta.org/pdf/Yukhnch8.pdf>
5. ↑ <sup>5.0 5.1</sup> <http://austinbiblechurch.com/sites/default/files/documents/Pericope%20de%20Adultera.pdf>
6. ↑ Matthew 15 & Mark 7
7. ↑ Mark 8:38 & Matthew 16:4
8. ↑ <http://www.peshitta.org/pdf/Mattich10.pdf>
9. ↑ <http://www.peshitta.org/pdf/Mattich27.pdf>

10. ↑ [10.0 10.1 10.2 10.3 10.4 10.5 http://www.jacksonsnnyder.com/yah/manuscript-library/Codex%20Sinaiticus.pdf](http://www.jacksonsnnyder.com/yah/manuscript-library/Codex%20Sinaiticus.pdf)
  11. ↑ <http://www.peshitta.org/pdf/Luqach22.pdf>
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  15. ↑ [15.0 15.1 http://en.metapedia.org/wiki/Book\\_of\\_Revelation](http://en.metapedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Revelation)
  16. ↑ Book "The Apocalypse of St. John, in a Syriac version hitherto unknown (1897)", Page. 20
  17. ↑ <http://www.peshitta.org/pdf/Mattich15.pdf>
  18. ↑ [18.0 18.1 18.2 18.3 http://www.peshitta.org/pdf/Yukhnch19.pdf](http://www.peshitta.org/pdf/Yukhnch19.pdf)
  19. ↑ <http://www.peshitta.org/pdf/Yukhnch5.pdf>
  20. ↑ <http://www.peshitta.org/pdf/Acts1.pdf>
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  24. ↑ [http://en.metapedia.org/wiki/Josephus%27\\_Judean\\_Wars](http://en.metapedia.org/wiki/Josephus%27_Judean_Wars)
  25. ↑ <https://archive.org/details/NTAramaic>
  26. ↑ <https://archive.org/details/AramaicNewTestamentRarelyWouldOneDieForTheRighteousRomans578>
  27. ↑ <https://archive.org/details/WastheNewTestamentReallyWritteninGreek1e>
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Here is the link -

[http://en.metapedia.org/wiki/Script\\_tampering\\_and\\_Mistransliteration\\_in\\_Greek\\_NT](http://en.metapedia.org/wiki/Script_tampering_and_Mistransliteration_in_Greek_NT)